AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Complete Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A drug package comprising:

a plurality of drug vials containing drugs for delivery to a patient in a drug delivery device; and

an electronic data carrier separate from the drug vials, said carrier including drug treatment information for use by the drug delivery device.

2. (Original) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is arranged to include at least one of the following items of treatment information:

a. the dose of drug to be delivered;
b. the identity of the drug which is to be delivered;
c. the expiry date of the drug to be delivered; and
d. the number of treatments available from the drug package.

3. (Original) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the drug vials contain drugs adapted for delivery in air inhaled by a patient to their lungs.

4. (Original) A drug package according to claim 3, wherein the drug vials are arranged to be used in conjunction with a drug delivery device for delivering the drug in the inhaled airstream of a patient.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is arranged to supply drug treatment information to a drug delivery device a number of

times corresponding to the number of treatments available from the drug package, or to the number of vials included in the drug package.

8. (Original) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein a single data carrier is included which includes the drug treatment information for each drug vial.

9. (Original) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is a radio frequency device.

10. (Previously presented) A drug package according to claim 9, wherein the data carrier is arranged to be powered inductively from a radio frequency signal transmitted from or associated with the drug delivery device.

11. (Original) A drug package according to claim 10, wherein the data carrier is arranged to generate a radio-frequency signal bearing the treatment information.

12. (Original) A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier includes a memory for recording information concerning treatments received from the drug delivery device.

13. (Previously presented) A drug delivery apparatus comprising:

a delivery portion for delivering a drug to a patient;

an electronic input arranged remotely from the medication chamber for receiving treatment information from an electronic data carrier for each treatment to be delivered to a patient; and

a delivery controller for controlling the amount of drug delivered to a patient on the basis of the received treatment information.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the input is a radio frequency input which receives the treatment information from a data carrier at radio frequency.

16. (Original) A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the input is additionally arranged to transmit completed treatment information to the data carrier for recordal.

17. (Original) A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the drug delivery apparatus includes an authorization portion which prevents delivery if any of the treatment information indicates that the drug is unsuitable for delivery.

18. (Original) A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the drug delivery apparatus is one of a pneumatic nebulizer, a piezo-electric nebulizer and an ultrasonic nebulizer.

19. (Currently amended) An electronic data carrier for use with a separate drug delivery apparatus, said electronic data carrier comprising a memory located within the data carrier for holding treatment information concerning the use of the drug delivery apparatus in delivering a specified drug, and an output for transmitting treatment information to the drug delivery apparatus.

20. (Previously presented) A drug delivery system comprising:

a drug delivery apparatus for delivering a specified drug, said apparatus having a medication chamber for receiving a drug for delivery and an electronic input arranged remotely from the medication chamber for receiving treatment information relating to the specified drug; and

a separate electronic data carrier containing said treatment information and including an output for transmitting treatment information to the electronic input before each treatment with the specified drug, whereby the electronic input delivers the specified drug in conformity with the treatment information.

21. (Previously presented) A method of operating a drug delivery apparatus comprising:

supplying a plurality of vials of a drug for use with the drug delivery apparatus;

supplying a data carrier separate from the vials and which includes treatment information;

transmitting treatment information from the data carrier to the drug delivery apparatus;

placing an amount of the drug from a vial in the drug delivery apparatus; and

delivering the drug in accordance with the treatment information from the data carrier.

22. (Previously presented) A drug delivery system comprising:

a drug delivery device and a data center, the drug delivery device including:

(i) a delivery portion for delivering a drug to a patient;

(ii) a drug use analyzer which records the use of the drug over a number of treatments as recorded treatment information, which analyzes the amount of a drug delivered over a number of treatments and which identifies when only a certain proportion of the prescribed drug remains; and

(iii) a treatment submission portion which operates to submit the recorded treatment information to a data center once the drug use analyzer identifies that less than the certain proportion of the prescribed drug remains, and the data center being arranged to analyze the recorded treatment information according to a protocol in order to formulate a result that identifies whether certain specifications have not been satisfied, referring the patient to a doctor for treatment, and where the specifications are satisfied, generating a repeat prescription.

23. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the treatment submission portion includes a modem which automatically connects to a telephone system to electronically submit treatment information to the data center.

24. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the treatment submission portion includes a connection to an electronic network through which the treatment information is submitted to the data center.

25. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the drug use analyzer includes a counter for counting the number of drug treatments delivered.

26. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 25, wherein the drug analyzer includes a memory for holding the total number of drug treatments that are possible from an existing course of drug treatments.

27. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 26, wherein the drug use analyzer includes a comparitor which compares the number of drug treatments that are possible from the memory with the number of drug treatments delivered from the counter, and generates a repeat prescription order signal when only a certain proportion of the prescribed drug remains.

28. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 27, wherein the treatment submission portion submits the treatment information once it receives a repeat prescription order signal signed from the drug use analyzer.

29. (Previously presented) A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the drug use analyzer includes a data carrier, including drug treatment information including the total number of drug treatments that are possible from an existing course of drug treatments.

30. (Original) A drug delivery device according to claim 29, wherein the memory for holding the total number of drug treatments is located in the data carrier.

31. (Previously presented) A method of prescribing a drug, comprising:

supplying a patient with a course of a number of drug treatments for administering using a drug delivery device;

recording the use of the drug treatments;

analyzing the use of the drug treatments;

identifying when only a certain proportion of the drug treatments remain;

submitting the recorded treatment information to a data center once only the certain proportion of the drug treatments are identified as remaining;

analyzing the recorded treatment information at the data center according to a protocol in order to formulate a result which identifies whether certain specifications are satisfied, and where the result indicates that certain specifications have not been satisfied, referring the patient to a doctor, and, where the result indicates that the specifications have been met, generating a repeat prescription.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

issuing a course of drug treatments or a prescription for the course of treatments in response to the electronic order.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the electronic ordering is done via a modem connection to a telephone line.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the electronic ordering is done via a connection to an electronic network.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the analyzing of the use of the drug treatments includes counting the number of drug treatments delivered.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the analyzing includes the comparing of the number of drug treatments delivered with the total number of treatments supplied.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, further including the step of generating a repeat prescription order signal when it is identified that only a certain proportion of the drug treatments remain.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the supply of a data carrier with the course of a number of drug treatments, the data carrier bearing drug

treatment information including the total number of drug treatments that are possible from the existing course of drug treatments.